



Thuringia has so much to offer. Let us show you some of the highlights. Enjoy!



Culture & Cities 06–19



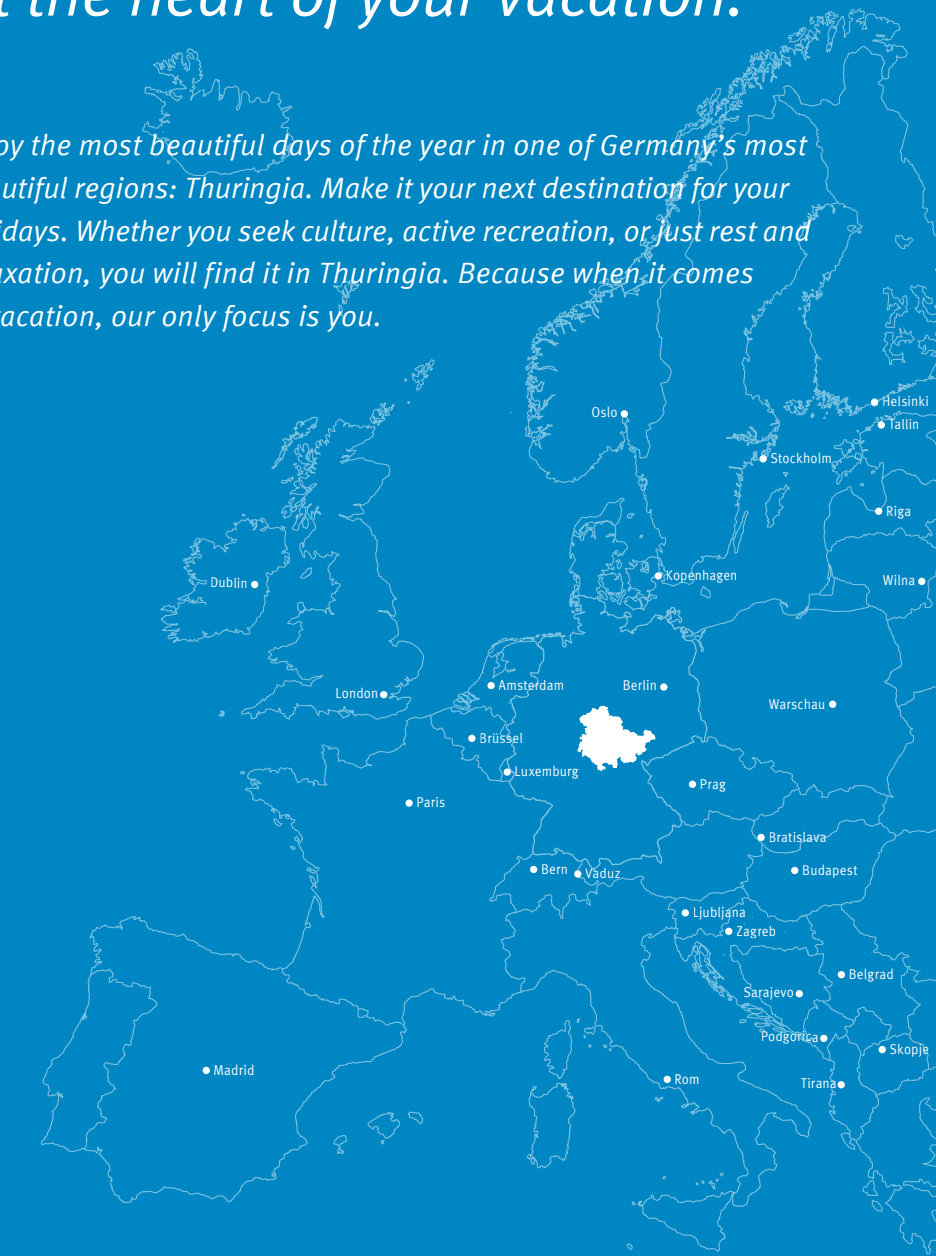
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*Thuringia. In the heart of Europe.
In the heart of Germany.
At the heart of your vacation.*

Enjoy the most beautiful days of the year in one of Germany's most beautiful regions: Thuringia. Make it your next destination for your holidays. Whether you seek culture, active recreation, or just rest and relaxation, you will find it in Thuringia. Because when it comes to vacation, our only focus is you.



Culture & Cities

“To the moment I shall say, linger a while, thou art so fair.” This is one of the most famous lines from Goethe’s “Faust”. Goethe experienced just such a beautiful moment himself, and that was in Thuringia – in Weimar, to be precise. It’s no wonder that Goethe lingered for over 50 years, most of his life, in the capital of Classicism. Germany’s second poet prince also had a connection to Thuringia: Friedrich Schiller composed some of his most famous writings here.

One of the most important works in all of German literature was written in what is now the Free State of Thuringia. Martin Luther completed his translation of the New Testament at Wartburg Castle, making the word of the Lord accessible to plain folk for the first time. His text would also become one of the foundations of the standard written German used today. Not far from Wartburg Castle, in Eisenach, another towering figure was born who left his mark on the world of music just as Luther left his on the Reformation – Johann Sebastian Bach. To this day, his influence can be heard on music from around the world, from every genre.

Thuringia gave rise to and attracted some very significant individuals. Even today, traces of their lives and work can be found all over Thuringia. We will gladly show you where.

Visiting the poet prince: the Goethe-Nationalmuseum (Goethe National Museum) in the poet’s residence in Weimar



Get to know impressive personalities.

Culture & Cities

Nine centuries of history and stories await you at Wartburg Castle (Wartburg Castle), perched high above Eisenach. Famous far beyond Germany's borders, this site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999, and it is worth a trip. If it's a close encounter with history you seek, then you've come to the right place. The Wartburg was the home of St. Elizabeth, who aided the sick and the poor. Her piety and the miracle of the roses went down in the history books – and in legends. She is still held up as a paragon of charity for her life and works, and it is no wonder that so many hospitals still bear her name.

The Wartburg Castle is also famous as the asylum of “Junker Jörg” (Squire George). Better known as Martin Luther, he translated the New Testament here and thus achieved a breakthrough in the Reformation. Even Goethe was a fan of the Wartburg. He often visited it and considered establishing a museum here as early as the beginning of the 19th century. Such a museum exists today, so you can walk in the footsteps of the poet prince and experience the fascination of the Wartburg firsthand.

Steeped in history: the Wartburg (Wartburg Castle) near Eisenach



Experience history up close.

Culture & Cities

A whole twelve months full of unforgettable moments fill the cultural calendar in Thuringia. With its many extraordinary events, the year in Thuringia offers plenty of fun for everyone who wants to experience something special while on vacation. Cultural highlights like the DomStufen-Festspiele (Cathedral Steps Festival) in Erfurt or the Weimarer Sommer (Summer in Weimar) turn the Free State's stairs, squares, parks and alleys into stages. The Thüringer Bachwochen (Thuringian Bach Festival) taking place all over Thuringia pay homage to one of the greatest composers in the history of music. The Thüringer Schlössertage (Thuringian Castle Days) are celebrated with a theme that changes annually. In fabulous settings such as Schloss Friedenstein (Friedenstein Castle) in Gotha and the Residenzschloss Altenburg (Residence Castle Altenburg), arts, crafts, exhibits, concerts and exclusive menus will transport you to another time. The various world-cup events in Oberhof promise world-class sports, while traditional folk festivals like the Weimarer Zwiebelmarkt (Weimar Onion Market) offer a setting for rustic celebrations. And at the end of the year, Thuringia's calendar always closes in style with one of the most beautiful Christmas markets. And what are you planning for Germany's next year? We have plenty of ideas for you!

Always a spectacle: the DomStufen-Festspiele (Cathedral Steps Festival) on the Erfurter Domplatz (Cathedral Square in Erfurt)

Fall in love with the moment.



Culture & Cities

Medieval city centers, stately architecture and a culture shaped by the presence of noble rulers distinguish the appearance of Thuringia's historic cities. The prime example is Erfurt. The oldest secular structure is the Krämerbrücke (Merchants' Bridge), the only bridge north of the Alps that is both older and longer than the famed Ponte Vecchio in Florence the only bridge north of the Alps that is older than the famed Ponte Vecchio in Florence and the longest of its kind in Europe. Its location on the Via Regia bestowed great wealth on Erfurt – and to you, a truly magnificent sight. Weimar is one of Germany's most important cities in terms of cultural history. In 1998, numerous sites in this capital of Classicism were elevated to the status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They include Goethe's residence, which still features the poet's authentically furnished office. Another is the Herzogin-Anna-Amalia Bibliothek (Duchess Anna Amalia Library). Destroyed in 2004 by a devastating fire, it has been restored to a new, historic sheen and once again showcases historic literary treasures like an original Luther Bible. The Deutsches Nationaltheater (German National Theater), one of the most renowned stages in Germany, is always worth a visit. However, don't miss Mühlhausen, Schmalkalden, or Rudolstadt either. Wander through their well-preserved historic centres and explore the numerous architectural gems these towns have to offer. Take your time and enjoy a journey into the past. Come to Thuringia.

Unique: the Krämerbrücke (Merchants' Bridge) in Erfurt



Journey through time.

Culture & Cities

Everyone has one: a special place that draws you back again and again. For Goethe, this place of refuge was his garden house in the Park on the river Ilm in Weimar, where he returned to work many times in his life. Among the poems he wrote there is the famous “Erkönig”. Today, you can visit this sanctuary yourself.

The Feengrotten (Fairy Grottoes) in Saalfeld exude a special kind of magic. This former alum shale mine is known today as the most colorful cave in the world, a status confirmed by the Guinness Book of World Records. Discover this enchanted world below the earth’s surface and enjoy the clean air in the caverns, which is known for its tonic qualities.

Mountain, castle, monument – the Kyffhäuser is unique in that it is all three. As a low mountain range, it is impressive primarily for its geological and botanical diversity. The Reichsburg Kyffhausen (Imperial Residence Kyffhausen) was one of the largest castles in the Middle Ages. The site is doubtless most famous for the legend of the sleeping Emperor Barbarossa and the national monument to Kaiser Wilhelm that is also known simply as Kyffhäuser. Every year, it is visited by tourists from across the globe who are enchanted by its legend.

*Retreat: Goethes Gartenhaus (Goethe’s Garden House)
in the Park on the river Ilm in Weimar.*

A man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand through a lush, green garden. The man is wearing a grey sweater and dark pants, and the woman is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and light-colored pants. They are both smiling and looking towards each other. In the background, there is a two-story white house with a grey roof, partially obscured by trees. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and romantic.

Explore enchanted realms.

Culture & Cities

Beautiful landscapes in the heart of Europe. No wonder so many rulers had residences in Thuringia. The extent to which the culture surrounding royal residences impacted Thuringia is evident in the number of palaces, castles, monasteries and parks in the Free State. They were created between the early middle ages and the close of the 19th century, and they have been fascinating people ever since. Take the three Dornburger Schlösser (Dornburg Palaces), for instance, which are perched high above the Saale Valley and attract visitors to this day with their rich history and culture. No less fascinating is Schloss Friedenstein (Friedenstein Castle) in Gotha, a Baroque universe itself. It invites you to explore the extensive art collection and the Ekhof-Theater (Ekhof Theater), which boasts working stage equipment from the 17th century.

Weimar, Sondershausen, Greiz and Rudolstadt are other royal strongholds that bespeak Thuringia's princely past and await you on your journey of discovery and awe.

So, if you'd like a taste of what it's like to be duke of the castle, Thuringia is the destination for you.

Stately: the Dornburger Schlösser (Dornburg Palaces)



Culture & Cities

50,000 students are learning and living in Thuringia, so it's no wonder that the Free State's university towns have a vibrant nightlife. Leading the pack is Jena, an exciting, pulsating center. As elegant and reserved as the lovingly restored city may seem, hot clubs and bars and exquisite restaurants testify to the city's modern character. Open air events like the Kulturarena music festival complete the offerings.

As the capital of Thuringia, Erfurt naturally is also one of its cultural centers, where tradition meets modernity. In one of the best-preserved medieval city centers in Germany, you can take a pleasant stroll, shop for the finest goods and watch the city's life unfold around you. Erfurt is also home to a spectacular event, the DomStufen-Festspiele (Cathedral Steps Festival), which plays out before the backdrop of the Dom St. Marien (St. Mary's Cathedral) and the Pfarrkirche St. Severus (St. Severin's Church). Beyond Jena and Erfurt, a number of other cities in Thuringia boast multifaceted art and cultural scenes.

That is especially true in Gera. Otto Dix, one of Germany's most important artists of the 20th century, was born here. The Otto Dix Collection shows the most important works from all the phases of his career.

You can experience urban living at its best in Thuringia.

Full of life: Wagnergasse in Jena

Get in tune with the times.



Nature & Activities

They say that the journey matters more than the destination, and that is especially true in Thuringia, a hiking paradise that offers miles of well-maintained trails and breathtaking views that get better and better with every step you take. The prime example is probably Germany's most famous mountain trail, the Rennsteig. It leads through the seemingly endless Thuringian Forest for 168 km from the Werra River to the banks of the Saale River for an outstanding hiking experience. Or, follow in Luther's footsteps and visit the sites where the great reformer and his fellow travellers changed history. The Lutherweg (Luther Trail) winds through 900 kilometers of Thuringia's diverse natural landscape. If you are looking for a journey, then Thuringia is the perfect destination for you.

*Discover diversity at the UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Hainich
(UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, Hainich National Park)*



Make the journey your destination.

Nature & Activities

Whether you are more interested in sprints or pit stops, Thuringia offers great cycling for athletes and pleasure cruisers alike. Mountain bikers can push themselves to the limit on challenging trails in the Thuringian Forest. Those who seek a placid pedal with attractions along the way can explore the Ilmtal-Radweg (Ilm Valley Cycle Trail), which follows in the footsteps of famous personalities from Thuringia's past. Cyclists who are interested in culture will also enjoy the long-distance Cycle Trail Städtekette (Chain-of-Towns) that connects Thuringia's major cities, including Eisenach, Weimar and Erfurt. Nature-lovers and families will delight in the Rhönrادweg (Rhön Cycle Trail). It crosses a fascinating landscape that is registered as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. You want to experience more of Thuringia? Its 1,500 kilometers of long-distance cycle trails are the best way.

A man and a woman are cycling through a field of tall, golden grass. The man is on the left, wearing a grey jacket, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white jacket. They are both looking down at their bikes. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The text "Enjoy every stage." is overlaid in large white letters across the bottom of the image.

Enjoy every stage.

Sporty: cycling through the Thuringian Forest

Nature & Activities

When it's cold outside, Thuringians heat up. The Free State is full of winter sports enthusiasts. It is the perfect destination for those who like being active in the snow. Three hundred kilometers of trails await passionate cross-country skiers in the Thuringian Forest. They range from easy to challenging for every level and interest. Long-distance cross-country ski lovers will find 1,300 kilometers of well-prepared trails, including the Rennsteig, Germany's longest cross-country ski trail at 142 km. Even snowboarders and downhill skiers will find opportunities to engage in their hobbies in Thuringia.

Don't hesitate, pick up your gear and learn more about the diverse world of winter sports in Thuringia.



Nature & Activities

If Thuringia were an independent country, it would be one of the top medal winners in the Winter Olympics. It's no wonder that sporting events in Thuringia enjoy massive popularity. Take the Biathlon World Cup in Oberhof. For the athletes, it's an annual highlight. For the visitors, it's one big party. Every year in January, the best skiers and shooters in the world meet to test their skills in an unique atmosphere as the fans cheer them on. And when Oberhof isn't hosting the World Cup, you can explore an unique facility for yourself. Try your hand as a biathlete and prove yourself in a winter sport contest. Experience the biathlon feeling that only Oberhof can offer. Other highlights and spectator magnets in the Thuringian winter sports calendar are the World Cup in Tobogganing and the Tour de Ski, where the athletes also look forward to a relaxed atmosphere and an enthusiastic crowd, perhaps including you.

Being there is everything. The Olympic spirit is definitely alive in Thuringia. Come experience world class sports in a truly unique environment.

World Class: the Biathlon World Cup in Oberhof



Nature & Activities

The UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe Hainich (UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, Hainich National Park) has truly earned this distinction. Germany's largest protected deciduous forest, it has maintained its primeval character and is one of Germany's few remaining old-growth beech forests. A walk along the Baumkronenpfad (Treetop Trail) will offer you an especially fascinating view of the Hainich National Park.

Expansive stands of spruce interspersed with idyllic mountain meadows and picturesque villages – that is the Naturpark Thüringer Wald (Thuringian Forest Nature Park). Whether you are a hiker, cyclist, or winter sports enthusiast, the park offers rich rewards. They don't come at the expense of the environment, however. The UNESCO-Biosphärenreservat Rhön (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Rhön) demonstrates how economic and social development can take place in harmony with biological diversity. Experience an attractive mix of unspoiled nature and cultivated landscapes in the "land of open horizons." May we suggest a pleasant hike along the Premiumweg Hochrhöner (Hochrhöner Premium Trail)?

Of course, there are more natural treasures in Thuringia than we can list here, and of course we'd love to have you come explore for yourself.

*Unspoiled nature: the Nationalpark Hainich
(Hainich National Park)*



Become one with nature.

Nature & Activities

Thuringia is ideal for all those who are overdue for a vacation and have a green card. The Free State's seven golf facilities offer plenty of opportunity for active recreation. The Golf Resort Weimarer Land offers two 18-hole courses and one 3-hole practice course in a gorgeous setting just outside Weimar. You will find further enticing golf options including the Drei Gleichen Golf Club (between Erfurt and Gotha) or the Eisenach Golf Resort (which offers stunning views of the Wartburg Castle).

You want to reach new heights – literally? The Woodjump ropes course in Oberhof offers thrills and challenges for those who aim higher.

You'd rather come down without relaxing? Try the Bikepark Silbersattel (Silver Saddle Bike Park) in Steinach. A six-minute ride in the chairlift will whisk you up the 150 meters difference in altitude so that you can tear down the mountain on two wheels. So if you are still trying to decide where to go for your next vacation, we have a tip for you: Thuringia.

Getting in the swing of things: the Golf Resort Weimarer Land



Achieve new goals.

Health & Wellness

Right in the heart of Germany, but far from the hustle and bustle – that is the wellness destination Thuringia. Switch off and leave everyday cares behind you. What is special about Thuringia is that nature itself will be your wellness oasis. The soft, fertile ground, the fresh air, the scent of tree bark and the soothing green of the leaves will work miracles for your body and soul. The small spa town of Tabarz is one such retreat that offers open-air massages against the backdrop of nature. As you listen to the chirping of birds and take in the scent of the forest, every motion of the masseur's hands will bring you to a deeper state of relaxation.

Among the absolute best wellness offerings in the Free State are the meditation courses on the Baumkronenpfad (Treetop Trail) in the Nationalpark Hainich (Hainich National Park). Practicing Yoga amidst the forest's leafy canopy is an unforgettable experience. Would you like to try Shiatsu and sound meditation with singing bowls? You can do that outdoors in Thuringia as well, in the Japanischer Garten Bad Langensalza (Japanese Garden in Bad Langensalza).

Come to Thuringia and discover your outdoor wellness oasis.

Arrived: wellness area at the Golf Resort Weimarer Land



Find your center.

Health & Wellness

The power of nature has been used to improve health and wellness in Thuringia for centuries. Today, regional ingredients are still prized for their salutary effects. A broad range of natural essences is used in Thuringia's wellness hotels, day spas and thermal baths. The nourishing and relaxing character of essential oils including rose, spruce and mustard bolster helps the effects of massages and baths.

Indulge your skin with something special: a deep-cleansing peel made of grape skins from Thuringia's wine-growing region Saale-Unstrut, or perhaps organic herbal hay from the mountain meadows of the Thuringian Forest. Care for your skin while you relax your mind.

Modern wellness and sauna facilities provide a stylish backdrop for pampering yourself. In Thuringia, you will find one of the 100 best baths in the world, the Toskana Therme Bad Sulza (Toskana Thermal Bath in Bad Sulza). An unforgettable experience awaits you there – the thoroughly unique Liquid Sound®, incorporating light, sound and color. Thuringia invites you to come and treat yourself in its unspoiled nature.

*Relaxation with a view: the Toskana Therme Bad Sulza
(Toskana Thermal Bath in Bad Sulza)*



Health & Wellness

Nineteen spas and baths in pursuit of one goal – natural health.

Thuringia is full of natural treasures that will improve your sense of well-being. The best example is the brine used in Bad Langensalza, Bad Sulza and Heilbad Heiligenstadt to treat skin and respiratory diseases. The brine found in Bad Salzungen is especially potent and counts among the most concentrated in Europe. The graduation tower, used to extract salt from briny water and the thermal baths form an impressive architectural ensemble.

In Bad Lobenstein and Bad Klosterlausnitz, by contrast, locals believe in the detoxifying power of bog.

Oberhof proves that not every natural treasure in the Thuringian Forest lies beneath the earth's surface. The most famous winter sports centre in the forest is also a popular spa thanks to the quality of the air there. Friedrichroda is another resort town known for its excellent air, which offers hikes with trained therapists teaching you how to experience the beneficial effects of the local climate. In Tabarz, the holistic theories of Sebastian Kneipp hold sway. Nutrition, exercise, a well-ordered lifestyle, water and healing herbs are the five pillars of a stable approach to health. Today, the teachings of this health-minded believe is more are more relevant than ever. As you can see, you won't just seek physical and spiritual wellness in Thuringia – you'll find it at one of our 19 spas and baths.

Wellness the natural way in Thuringia



Imprint:

Design/Production: KNSK Werbeagentur GmbH
Concept/Editor: Thüringer Tourismus GmbH,
Thuringian Ministry for Economy, Labour and Technology
Photos: TTG, Toma Babovic, Erhard Diesel, Lutz Edelhoff,
Sascha Fromm, Jens Hauspurg, Adrian Leeder, Joachim Negwer,
Henrike Schunck, Roland Wehking, Andreas Weise, Guido Werner



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Publisher:

Thuringian Ministry for Economy,
Labour and Technology (TMWAT)

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